Programme of Taslima in Allahabad University

†298. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN-RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University of Allahabad has cancelled the progmmme of Taslima after the Hyderabad incident;

(b) whether Government had given its consent;

(c) whether some people staged a victory procession after this incident; and

(d) if so, the views of Government on this episode?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University of Allahabad, the Women's Advisory Board of the University had scheduled a programme on 14.8.2007 in which Dr. Taslima Nasrin was to participate. However, after a review of the situation, the University decided on 11.8.2007 to cancel the said programme in order to maintain peace in the city and the campus so that the academic atmosphere was not vitiated at the very beginning of the academic session. The University has reported that a few sections staged a procession, after the cancellation of the programme.

The Government is of the opinion that the University of Allahabad is a statutory autonomous body established by an Act of Parliament, and it does not require any approval or consent of the Government for scheduling or cancelling such programmes.

Enrolment in higher education

†*299 SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that enrolment in higher education is merely 8 per cent to 10 per cent and by the end of this Plan, it will reach only upto 12 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact tliat present educational system lacks skill and courses are not being started as per the skill demanded by the industry;

(c) whether the Knowledge Commission has proposed opening of 1500 New Universities;

(d) whether due to such lack of goal, not a single genius has emerged who could be eligible for getting a Nobel Prize; and

(e) what are the details of Government's plan for improving this overall situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) Subject to finalization of the Eleventh Plan, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher Education is proposed to be increased to 15% by 2011-12

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

from the present GER of about 10%. Higher Education in general, and technical and professional education, in particular, has been imparting knowledge and skills to meet demands of national development. University Grants Commission has also been supporting the universities and colleges under its career oriented programmes for skill development in various disciplines. While the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended setting up of 1500 universities nation-wide by 2015, its recommendations are in the public domain for wider national debate.

Indian Education system is one of the largest systems in the world, with its share of educational institutions recognized as Centres of Excellence. In order to strengthen research in basic sciences within the university system, a Task Force was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma by the Central Government. The recommendations of the Task Force have been accepted by the Government for implementation through the UGC. Subject to finalization of the Eleventh Plan, a substantial expansion of higher education institutions have been proposed along with setting up of new institutions, while-strengthening quality of research and teaching.

Problems in rural electrification

*300. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the present policy of Government to provide electricity to all unelectrified rural households by 2010;

(b) whether in view of nearly 53 per cent of rural households yet to be given power supply, it would be possible to keep up the time-frame already stipulated; and

(c) if not, what are the major constraints in keeping up the execution schedule and how they could be got over to fulfil the task within the deadline?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) For the attainment of one of the goals of the National Common Minimum Programme, the Government of India launched an ambitious programme, the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) - a scheme for rural electricity infrastructure and household electrification in April, 2005, which envisages providing access of electricity to all rural households in the country by the year 2009.

The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the nodal agency, has so far, received 610 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) covering electrification of 1.18 lakh un-electrified villages, intensive electrification of 4.01 lakh already electrified villages and release of 453 lakh rural household connections including 259 lakh BPL households. The implementing agencies have reported that electrification works have been carried out in. 62,930 villages incluJing 43,100 un-electrified villages and 19,830 electrified villages up to 24th August, 2007 under RGGVY.

(b) According to the 2001 census, 56.5% rural households were yet to be electrified. As the Government had approved Rs.5000 crore as capital subsidy for implementation of Phase-I of RGGVY during Tenth Plan period, 235 projects were identified for execution in the last two years of the Tenth Plan. The sanction of additional projects, as also the execution of projects in the Eleventh Plan are to be